

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C.20231
ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

04 November 1999 (04.11.99)

International application No.

PCT/GB99/01146

Applicant's or agent's file reference

JEP/P54997WO

International filing date (day/month/year)

14 April 1999 (14.04.99)

Priority date (day/month/year)

15 April 1998 (15.04.98)

Applicant

MORRIS, Paul et al

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:



in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

04 October 1999 (04.10.99)



in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

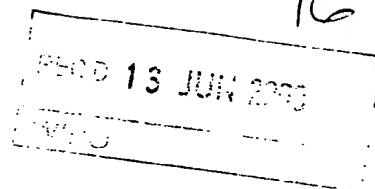
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

Authorized officer

S. Mafla

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

PCT



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P54997WO/PRW	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB99/01146	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/04/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 15/04/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A41D27/06		
Applicant PRO-FIT INTERNATIONAL LIMITED et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04/10/1999	Date of completion of this report 08.06.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Martinez, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399 7510



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-7 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-14 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
☒ claims Nos. 12-14.

because:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 12-14 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims 3,5,7-9
	No:	Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims
	No:	Claims 1-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims 1-11
	No:	Claims

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-2106334

Re Item III

No examination as to novelty, inventive step and industrial application of Claims 12 to 14 has been carried out because their subject-matter is not clear, the reasons being as follows:

Claims 12 to 14 relate to a method or a product (composite, waistband, waistband facing or collar) which belong to two different "categories" of claims (see PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Ch. III-3.1, PCT Gazette Special Issue dated 29 October 1998), which renders their subject-matter unclear. For the same reasons, Claims 12 to 14 can not be dependent on "any of the preceding claims" since the preceding claims belong to different categories.

Re Item V

1. Novelty

The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT because the subject-matter of the following claims does not appear to be new.

Claim 1

Document D1 (cited as an X document), which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses all the features of Claim 1:

- a method of imparting a desired shape to a fabric composite (D1: to provide the waist embracing portion of trousers with a frusto-conical shape, see D1: p1, col1, l13-17), the method including:
- the step of affixing to a fabric backing material an interlining (D1: sewing the inner face of a waist band portion (11) to an elastic stiffening strip (13), see p2, col1, l47-52) having extensibility in the longitudinal direction (D1: the strip 13 is woven by employing elastic warps (14), see p2, col1, l29-31);
- the further step of selectively controlling the longitudinal extensibility across the width of the composite in such a manner as to permit the composite to assume a

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

desired shape (D1: p2, col1, l29-36 to l41-46).

The term "sewing" also means "affixing". Therefore, the waist embracing portion of trousers disclosed in document D1 can be qualified as a fabric composite as claimed in Claim 1 since it is made of the waist band portion (11) sewn to the strip (13).

Therefore, the subject-matter of Claim 1 does not appear to be new. This also applies to Claims 2, 4, 10 and 11.

Claim 6

Document D1 also discloses all the features of Claim 6:

- an interlining having indeterminate longitudinal dimension and a width defined by the first and second edges (D1: an elastic stiffening strip 13);
- the interlining having extensibility in the longitudinal direction (D1: the strip 13 is woven by employing elastic warps (14), see p2, col1, l29-31);
- the longitudinal extensibility of the lining varies from the first edge to the second edge (D1: p2, col1, l29-36).

Therefore, the subject-matter of Claim 6 does not appear to be new.

2. Inventive step

The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(3) PCT because the subject-matter of the following claims does not appear to involve an inventive step.

Independent Claim 5

The use of a fabric material which can assume a desired shape in the manufacture of a collar, top collar and under collar is well known in the art. Hence, the subject-matter of Claim 5 does not appear to be inventive.

Dependent claims:

Claim 3

Providing a material with higher extensibility on its edges than in its central part in order to form a collar is well-known in the art. Therefore, the additional feature of Claim 3 does not appear to be inventive.

Claims 7 to 9

Claims 7 to 9 relate to well-known methods of varying the extensibility across the width of a strip of material made of elastic threads. The additional features of Claims 7 to 9 therefore do not appear to be inventive.

3. Industrial applicability

The subject-matter of Claims 1 to 11 appears to be industrial applicable in the sense of Article 33(4) PCT.

Re Item VII

According to Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the prior art documents D1 and D2 should have been mentioned in the description and briefly discussed.

According to Rule 6.3(b) PCT, the independent claims should have been drafted in the two-part form.

Reference signs in parentheses should have been inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility, Rule 6.2(b) PCT.

Re Item VIII

The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because the subject-matter of the following claims is not clear.

Independent claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 and 13 lack conciseness (see PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Ch. III-5.1, PCT Gazette Special Issue dated 29 October 1998). Lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought.

In order to overcome this objection, it would appear appropriate to file an amended set of claims defining the relevant subject-matter in terms of a minimum number of independent claims in each category followed by dependent claims covering features which are merely optional (Rules 6.4 (a), (b), (c) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

The method claims and the claims concerning the interlining should have been first disclosed, since the interlining is an essential characteristic of the invention. It is also essential that a general inventive concept link the method claims and the interlining claims (see PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Ch. III-7.3, PCT Gazette Special Issue dated 29 October 1998). These claims should therefore have been defined by corresponding features; for example the interlining should also have been defined by its longitudinal dimensions and its width, itself defined by first and second edges, in the independent method claim as it is in the interlining claim (see Claim 6).

Claim 4

The fabric composite claimed in Claim 4 is not defined by product features. Claim 4 should therefore be deleted. It should also be noted that under the EPC (see Article 64(2) EPC), if the subject-matter of the patent is a process, the protection conferred by the patent shall extend to the products directly obtained by such process.

Claims 5, 10 and 11

The product claims concerning the fabric composite and to the end products (waistband and collar, see Claims 5 and 11), being Claims 5, 10 and 11, should be defined by be interlining and therefore should refer to the interlining claims (see above).

Claims 12, 13 and 14


see Item III.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P54997WO/PRW		FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB99/01146		International filing date (day/month/year) 14/04/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 15/04/1998	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A41D27/06				
Applicant PRO-FIT INTERNATIONAL LIMITED et al.				
<p>1. This International preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of sheets.</p>				
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 				
Date of submission of the demand 04/10/1999		Date of completion of this report 08.06.2000		
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523856 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465		Authorized officer Martinez, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399 7510		

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (January 1994)



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.)*:

Description, pages:

1-7 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-14 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/6-6/6 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:**III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability**

The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

- ☐ the entire international application.
☒ claims Nos. 12-14.

because:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

☐ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (*specify*):

☒ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. 12-14 are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

see separate sheet

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos. .

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	3,5,7-9
	No:	Claims	1, 2, 4, 6, 10, 11
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-11
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

Reference is made to the following document:
D1: US-A-2106334

Re Item III

No examination as to novelty, inventive step and industrial application of Claims 12 to 14 has been carried out because their subject-matter is not clear, the reasons being as follows:

Claims 12 to 14 relate to a method or a product (composite, waistband, waistband facing or collar) which belong to two different "categories" of claims (see PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Ch. III-3.1, PCT Gazette Special Issue dated 29 October 1998), which renders their subject-matter unclear. For the same reasons, Claims 12 to 14 can not be dependent on "any of the preceding claims" since the preceding claims belong to different categories.

Re Item V**1. Novelty**

The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(2) PCT because the subject-matter of the following claims does not appear to be new.

Claim 1

Document D1 (cited as an X document), which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses all the features of Claim 1:

- a method of imparting a desired shape to a fabric composite (D1: to provide the waist embracing portion of trousers with a frusto-conical shape, see D1: p1, col1, 113-17), the method including:
- the step of affixing to a fabric backing material an interlining (D1: sewing the inner face of a waist band portion (11) to an elastic stiffening strip (13), see p2, col1, 147-52) having extensibility in the longitudinal direction (D1: the strip 13 is woven by employing elastic warps (14), see p2, col1, 129-31);
- the further step of selectively controlling the longitudinal extensibility across the width of the composite in such a manner as to permit the composite to assume a

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

desired shape (D1: p2, col1, l29-36 to l41-46).

The term "sewing" also means "affixing". Therefore, the waist embracing portion of trousers disclosed in document D1 can be qualified as a fabric composite as claimed in Claim 1 since it is made of the waist band portion (11) sewn to the strip (13):

Therefore, the subject-matter of Claim 1 does not appear to be new. This also applies to Claims 2, 4, 10 and 11.

Claim 6

Document D1 also discloses all the features of Claim 6:

- an interlining having indeterminate longitudinal dimension and a width defined by the first and second edges (D1: an elastic stiffening strip 13);
- the interlining having extensibility in the longitudinal direction (D1: the strip 13 is woven by employing elastic warps (14), see p2, col1, l29-31);
- the longitudinal extensibility of the lining varies from the first edge to the second edge (D1: p2, col1, l29-36).

Therefore, the subject-matter of Claim 6 does not appear to be new.

2. Inventive step

The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(3) PCT because the subject-matter of the following claims does not appear to involve an inventive step.

Independent Claim 5

The use of a fabric material which can assume a desired shape in the manufacture of a collar, top collar and under collar is well known in the art. Hence, the subject-matter of Claim 5 does not appear to be inventive.

Dependent claims:**Claim 3**

Providing a material with higher extensibility on its edges than in its central part in order to form a collar is well-known in the art. Therefore, the additional feature of Claim 3 does not appear to be inventive.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

Claims 7 to 9

Claims 7 to 9 relate to well-known methods of varying the extensibility across the width of a strip of material made of elastic threads. The additional features of Claims 7 to 9 therefore do not appear to be inventive.

3. Industrial applicability

The subject-matter of Claims 1 to 11 appears to be industrial applicable in the sense of Article 33(4) PCT.

Re Item VII

According to Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the prior art documents D1 and D2 should have been mentioned in the description and briefly discussed.

According to Rule 6.3(b) PCT, the independent claims should have been drafted in the two-part form.

Reference signs in parentheses should have been inserted in the claims to increase their intelligibility, Rule 6.2(b) PCT.

Re Item VIII

The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because the subject-matter of the following claims is not clear.

Independent claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 and 13 lack conciseness (see PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Ch. III-5.1, PCT Gazette Special Issue dated 29 October 1998). Lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought.

In order to overcome this objection, it would appear appropriate to file an amended set of claims defining the relevant subject-matter in terms of a minimum number of independent claims in each category followed by dependent claims covering features which are merely optional (Rules 6.4 (a), (b), (c) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB99/01146

The method claims and the claims concerning the interlining should have been first disclosed, since the interlining is an essential characteristic of the invention. It is also essential that a general inventive concept link the method claims and the interlining claims (see PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines, Ch. III-7.3, PCT Gazette Special Issue dated 29 October 1998). These claims should therefore have been defined by corresponding features; for example the interlining should also have been defined by its longitudinal dimensions and its width, itself defined by first and second edges, in the independent method claim as it is in the interlining claim (see Claim 6).

Claim 4

The fabric composite claimed in Claim 4 is not defined by product features. Claim 4 should therefore be deleted. It should also be noted that under the EPC (see Article 64(2) EPC), if the subject-matter of the patent is a process, the protection conferred by the patent shall extend to the products directly obtained by such process.

Claims 5, 10 and 11

The product claims concerning the fabric composite and to the end products (waistband and collar, see Claims 5 and 11), being Claims 5, 10 and 11, should be defined by the interlining and therefore should refer to the interlining claims (see above).

Claims 12, 13 and 14

see Item III.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference JEP/P54997W0	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 99/ 01146	International filing date (day/month/year) 14/04/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 15/04/1998
Applicant PRO-FIT INTERNATIONAL LIMITED et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☐ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☒ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

INTERLINING MATERIAL, PROCESS OF MANUFACTURING AND USE THEREOF

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

2,3

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/01146

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 A41D27/06 A41B3/10 A41F9/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A41D A41B A41F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 720 874 A (QUICK SERVICE TEXTILES INC.) 26 January 1988 (1988-01-26) column 1, line 53 - line 64 column 2, line 56 - column 4, line 8; claim 1; figures 1-6 ---	1-4, 6, 10, 11
X	US 2 106 334 A (UNITES STATES RUBBER PRODUCTS) 25 January 1938 (1938-01-25) page 2, line 16 - line 57; claim 1; figures 1-6 ---	1-4, 6, 10, 11
X	US 3 745 588 A (JACK WINTER INC.) 17 July 1973 (1973-07-17) column 2, line 53 - column 4, line 22; figures 1,5,6 --- -/--	1, 2, 4, 11, 13, 14



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

29 July 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

13/08/1999

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Garnier, F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/GB 99/01146

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	DE 21 06 283 A (H. BARIG) 31 August 1972 (1972-08-31) claim 1; figures 1-3 ---	1,6,8,9
A	US 4 551 994 A (OLYMPIC NARROW FABRICS COMPANY) 12 November 1985 (1985-11-12) claims 1,3; figures 3-13 ---	1,4,6, 10,11
A	US 2 186 387 A (TRUBENIZING PROCESS CORPORATION) 9 January 1940 (1940-01-09) page 1, column 1, line 37 - page 2, column 1, line 27; claims 1,2; figures 1,2 -----	1,4,5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 99/01146

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 4720874	A	26-01-1988	NONE		
US 2106334	A	25-01-1938	NONE		
US 3745588	A	17-07-1973	NONE		
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